THE FLORIDA SENATE



SENATOR DENNIS BAXLEY 12th District

SELECT COMMITTEE:

COMMITTEES:

Agriculture Appropriations

Transportation

Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining

Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services

Governmental Oversight and Accountability, Chair Criminal Justice, Vice Chair

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

May 24, 2018

Mike Dew, Secretary Florida Department of Transportation 605 Suwannee Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

and

Rebecca Bolan, P.E. PMP, Project Manager Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Post Office Box 613069 Ocoee, FL 34761

Re: Florida's Suncoast Parkway Connector

Dear Secretary Dew and Ms. Bolan:

Please let me express my gratitude for the proactive posture of FDOT to meet the transportation needs of Florida, and our north central Florida region. The proposed Coastal Connector, creating an alternate path to accommodate public safety and transportation needs is a worthy consideration. However, paths laid out in the current study all do serious damage to the agriculture and horse farm industry so vital to our area. Please meet with the Marion County Legislative Delegation, local officials, and these industry leaders to find a new path. One that will minimize the impact on these vital interests and the related environmental concerns.

Thank you for planning, but we need a new plan.

Sincerely,

Senator Dennis K. Baxley

District 12

320 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe St, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 ● (850) 487-5012 Email: baxley.dennis@flsenate.gov

JOE NEGRON
President of the Senate

ANITERE FLORES
President Pro Tempore

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Cc: Lonny Taylor Powell, CEO/Exec. VP, FTBOA
Matt Bryan, Lobbyist for FTBOA
Gus Corbella, Lobbyist for landowners
Hayden Dempsey, Lobbyist for landowners
Marion County Board of County Commissioners
David Moore, District 1
Kathy Bryant, Chair, District 2
Jeff Gold, District 3
Carl Zalak, III, District 4
Michelle Stone, District 5

Marion County Legislative Delegation Members

Senator Rob Bradley, District 5
Senator Keith Perry, District 8
Representative Clovis Watson, Jr., District 20
Representative Charlie Stone, District 22
Representative Stan McClain, District 23
District 33 - open

Ocala Star Banner, Brad Rogers